

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus  
comprising:

5                   comparing means for comparing image  
resolution of an input image data and information of  
a predetermined standard resolution;

                  judging means for judging whether the  
image data includes specific information related to  
10                  copy protection; and

                  controlling means for controlling not to  
work the judging means on the basis of the result of  
the comparing means.

15                  2. An image processing apparatus  
comprising according to claim 1, wherein the judging  
process is performed by a software process.

20                  3. An image processing apparatus  
comprising according to claim 1, wherein said  
specific information is comprised a digital  
watermark.

25                  4. An image processing apparatus  
comprising according to claim 1 further comprising,  
checking means for checking said input image data  
being a copy-prohibited object based on a result of  
said judging means in case resolution of said input  
image data is as large as the predetermined standard  
30                  resolution.

5. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 4, wherein said image data is  
output as a processed image data on the basis of  
said checking result; and

5                    wherein said processed image data is not  
equal to said input image data.

6. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 5, wherein a destination of said  
10                   output is a storage media or a printer or a network.

7. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 5, wherein an output of said  
image data is stopped on the basis of said checking  
15                   result.

8. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said control means  
controls not to work the judging means in case  
20                   resolution of said input image data is as large as  
the predetermined standard resolution.

9. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said input image data  
25                   is attached with information and a judgment of  
said judging means is not performed in case  
resolution of said input image data is as large as  
the predetermined standard resolution and is not as  
large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

10. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 9, wherein said information is a  
product number of a personal computer or a product  
number of a scanner which is a part of the image  
process apparatus or user's ID information.

11. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 9, wherein said attachment of  
information is performed by digital watermark or by  
non-visible color information.

12. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 9, wherein said information  
attached in said input image data in case said input  
image is not said copy-prohibited object .

13. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein image data of an image  
resolution less than said predetermined image  
resolution is used for said judgment of said judging  
means.

14. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said specific  
information is a color spectrum distribution or an  
image pattern.

15. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said judging means is  
controlled to judge in case resolution of said input  
image data is as large as the predetermined standard

resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

16. An image processing apparatus  
5 according to claim 1, wherein said input image data is input from a scanner or a storage media or a network.

17. An image processing apparatus  
10 according to claim 16, wherein information for a specified one of said storage media is attached to said input image data in case said input image data is input from the storage medium; and

15 wherein information for a specified one of a network address of a sender of said input image data and/or a network address of a receiver of said input image data is attached to said input image data in case said input image data is input from the network.

20 18. An image processing method comprising:

25 image resolution of an input image data and information of a predetermined standard resolution;

judging whether the image data includes specific information relating to copy protection;

30 wherein the image process method control not to work the judging on the basis of the result of the comparing.

19. An image processing method comprising according to claim 18, wherein the judging process is performed by a software process.

5 20. An image processing method comprising according to claim 18, wherein said specific information is comprised of a digital watermark.

10 21. An image processing method comprising according to claim 18 further comprising, checking said input image data being a copy-prohibited object based on a result of said judging step in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

15 22. An image processing method according to claim 21, wherein said image data is output as a processed image data on the basis of said checking result;

20 wherein said processed image data is not equal to said input image data.

25 23. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein a destination of said output is a storage media or a printer or a network.

30 24. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein an output of said image data is stopped on the basis of said checking result.

25. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said image processing method controls not to work the judging means in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution.

26. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said input image data is attached with information and a judgment of said judging is not performed in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

27. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein said information is a product number of a personal computer or a product number of a scanner which is a part of an image process apparatus performing said image processing method or user's ID information.

28. An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said attachment or addition of information is performed by digital watermark or by non-visible color information.

29. An image processing method according to claim 22, wherein information attached in said input image data in case said input image is not said copy-prohibited object.

30. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein image data of an image resolution less than said predetermined image resolution is used for said judgment of said judging.

31. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said specific information is a color spectrum distribution or an image pattern.

32. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein a judgment by said judging is controlled to judge in case resolution of said input image data is as large as the predetermined standard resolution and is not as large as a second predetermined standard resolution.

33. An image processing method according to claim 18, wherein said input image data is input from a scanner or a storage media or a network.

34. An image processing method according to claim 31, wherein information for a specified one of said storage media is attached to said input image data in case said input image data is input from the storage media; and

wherein information for a specified one of a network address of a sender of said input image data and/or a network address of a receiver of said input image data is attached to said input image

data in case said input image data is input from the network.

35. A computer program product,  
5 comprising a computer readable medium having  
computer program codes, for executing image  
processing, said product including:

process procedure codes for comparing  
image resolution of an input image data and  
10 information of a predetermined standard resolution;

judging process procedure codes for  
judging the image data includes specific information  
relating to copy protection;

controlling process procedure codes for  
15 controlling not to work the judging on the basis of  
the result of the comparing.

36. An image processing apparatus  
comprising:

20 generating means for generating image  
resolution information for input image data;

first comparing means for comparing said  
generated image resolution information with a  
predetermined first standard resolution;

25 second comparing means for comparing said  
generated image resolution information with a  
predetermined second standard resolution;

data adding means for adding data to said  
input image data; and



judging means for judging whether said input image data includes specific information or not;

wherein said data adding means and said judging means are controlled to add and to judge, respectively based on outputs of said first and second comparing means.

37. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said first comparing means judges that the input image data has a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is not as large as said predetermined first standard resolution.

38. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said second comparing means judges the image data has a high risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by both said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

39. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said second comparing means judges that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by one of said data adding means and said judging means is performed.

40. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 39, wherein said second comparing  
means judges that the input image data does not have  
a low risk of counterfeiting in case image  
5 resolution of said input image is as large as said  
predetermined second standard resolution and  
processing by both of said data adding means and  
said judging means is performed.

10 41. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 36, wherein said judging means  
also judges whether a copy-prohibited object image  
is included in said input image data or not.

15 42. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 36, wherein said judging means  
also judges whether a predetermined digital  
watermark is attached in said image data or not.

20 43. An image processing apparatus  
according to claim 36 further comprising output  
means for outputting a result of said judging means;  
wherein said output means outputs a signal  
indicating said image data includes said specific  
25 information in case said judging means judges said  
image data inputted said input means includes  
specific information.

30 44. An image processing method  
comprising:

generating step for generating image  
resolution information for input image data;

first comparing step for comparing said  
generated image resolution information with a  
predetermined first standard resolution;

second comparing step for comparing said  
generated image resolution information with a  
predetermined second standard resolution;

data adding step for adding data to said  
input image data; and

judging step for judging whether said  
input image data includes specific information or  
not;

wherein said data adding step and said  
judging step are controlled to add and to judge,  
respectively based on results of said first and  
second comparing step.

45. An image processing method according  
to claim 44, wherein said first comparing step  
judges that the input image data has a low risk of  
counterfeiting in case image resolution of said  
input image is not as large as said predetermined  
first standard resolution.

46. An image processing method according  
to claim 44, wherein said second comparing step  
judges that the image data has a high risk of  
counterfeiting in case image resolution of said  
input image is as large as said predetermined second

standard resolution and processing by both said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

5 47. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said second comparing step judges that the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and processing by one of  
10 said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

15 48. An image processing method according to claim 47, wherein said second comparing step judges the input image data does not have a low risk of counterfeiting in case image resolution of said input image is as large as said predetermined second standard resolution and performing by both of said data adding step and said judging step is performed.

20 49. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said judging step also judges whether a copy-prohibited object image is included in said input image data or not.

25 50. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein said judging step also judges whether a predetermined digital watermark is included in said image data or not.

51. An image processing method according to claim 44 further comprising output step for outputting a result of said judging step;

5 wherein said output step outputs a signal indicating said image data includes said specific information in case said judging step judges said image data includes specific information.

10 52. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer program codes, for executing image processing, said product including:

generating procedure codes for generating image resolution information of input image data;

15 first comparing procedure codes for comparing said generated image resolution information with a predetermined first standard resolution;

20 second comparing procedure codes for comparing said generated image resolution information with a predetermined second standard resolution;

data adding step procedure codes for adding data to said input image data; and

25 judging procedure codes for judging whether said input image data includes specific information or not;

30 wherein said data adding and said judging are controlled to add and to judge, respectively based on a result of said first and second comparing